

EASTER IN WASHINGTON: A TRADITIONAL CELEBRATION
(INSERTS IN TAPE LIBRARY)

ANNCR: SPRING HAS BEEN CELEBRATED FROM TIME IMMEMORIAL AS THE SEASON OF THE REBIRTH OF ALL LIVING THINGS AFTER THE COLD, CRUEL WINTER. FOR CHRISTIANS, IT HAS A DEEPER MEANING: IT'S THE SEASON THEY CELEBRATE EASTER, THE FEAST OF THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST. AMONG THE MANY DIFFERENT WAYS THIS HOLY DAY WILL BE OBSERVED IN WASHINGTON, D.C. ONE OF THE MOST UNUSUAL IS THE SERIES OF SERVICES PLANNED BY AN EPISCOPAL CHURCH ON CAPITOL HILL KNOWN AS ST. JAMES. HERE'S _____ TO TELL YOU MORE.

TAPE: CUT ONE - GREGORIAN CHANT: "VICTIMAE PASCHALI" -- IN FULL BRIEFLY, THEN FADE AND HOLD UNDER

VOICE: THIS IS GREGORIAN CHANT -- ONE OF THE MOST ANCIENT FORMS OF MUSIC USED IN CHRISTIAN WORSHIP. VARIOUS PORTIONS OF THE CHRISTIAN RITUAL WERE SET TO MUSIC ALMOST AS SOON AS THE CHURCH WAS ORGANIZED DURING THE FIRST CENTURY AFTER THE BIRTH OF CHRIST. FIVE HUNDRED YEARS LATER, POPE GREGORY THE FIRST OF ROME GATHERED AND ORGANIZED THE CHANTS IN USE THROUGHOUT CHRISTENDOM, AND FROM ROME, GREGORIAN CHANT, AS IT CAME TO BE CALLED, SPREAD THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. DURING THE REFORMATION, HOWEVER, MANY PROTESTANT SECTS REJECTED ALL BUT THE SIMPLEST FORMS OF WORSHIP, AND GREGORIAN CHANT DISAPPEARED FROM THE CHURCH SERVICES OF MOST PROTESTANT DENOMINATIONS. ONE PROTESTANT CHURCH IN WASHINGTON THAT KEEPS IT ALIVE IS ST. JAMES' EPISCOPAL CHURCH ON CAPITOL HILL.

TAPE: BRING MUSIC UP, PLAY IN FULL BRIEFLY, THEN FADE UNDER AND OUT BEHIND:

VOICE: ST. JAMES IS A HIGH EPISCOPAL CHURCH, WHICH MEANS THAT ALTHOUGH ITS DOCTRINES DIFFER FROM THOSE OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, ITS SERVICES ARE VERY SIMILAR. THIS IS NOT TRUE OF ALL EPISCOPAL CHURCHES IN THE UNITED STATES. MANY OF THEM HOLD VERY SIMPLE SERVICES. BUT AT ST. JAMES, WORSHIP INCLUDES THE USE OF INCENSE, ELABORATE VESTMENTS FOR THE PRIEST AND HIS ASSISTANTS, HOLY WATER, WINE, CANDLES, AND BOTH ANCIENT AND MODERN MUSIC. FATHER RICHARD DOWNING, RECTOR AT ST. JAMES, POINTS OUT THAT IN RECENT YEARS, EPISCOPAL CHURCHES THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES HAVE BEEN REDISCOVERING THE VALUE OF CEREMONY IN RELIGIOUS WORSHIP, SO THAT ST. JAMES IS NO LONGER SO UNUSUAL IN THAT RESPECT:

TAPE: CUT TWO -- DOWNING

"THE NATIONAL CHURCH IS BEGINNING TO DO WHAT ST. JAMES HAS ALWAYS DONE AS FAR AS WORSHIP GOES. I THINK THE MOVEMENT TOWARDS MORE COLOR, TOWARD VARIETY OF MUSIC, TOWARD INCREASED ATTENTION TO THE BEAUTY OF WORSHIP, IS JUST THE GENERAL MOVEMENT THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE CHURCH -- NOT ONLY THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH, BUT OTHER CHURCHES AS WELL. METHODIST CHURCHES ARE PAYING MORE ATTENTION TO WORSHIP, AND THEIR WORSHIP IS BECOMING A LITTLE MORE ELABORATE, AND THEY'RE HARKING BACK TO THE TIME WHEN THE CHURCH WAS ONE, AND THERE WERE NOT DENOMINATIONS AND THERE WERE NOT FIGHTS OVER RITUAL, AND PEOPLE ARE ABLE TO SEE RITUAL AS AN OFFERING THAT THE PEOPLE MAKE IN THEIR WORSHIP."

VOICE: FOR EASTER, ST. JAMES IS PLANNING NOT JUST ONE OR TWO SERVICES, BUT A FULL WEEK OF WORSHIP, CULMINATING IN A TRIO OF MASSES COMMEMORATING MAUNDY THURSDAY, GOOD FRIDAY, AND EASTER ITSELF. FATHER DOWNING EXPLAINS THAT THE NAME "MAUNDY THURSDAY" COMES FROM THE LATIN "MANDATUS" MEANING

VOICE: MANDATE OR ORDER, BECAUSE THIS WAS THE DAY CHRIST GAVE
(CONT) HIS DISCIPLES THEIR MISSION BY TELLING THEM THAT THEIR
RESPONSIBILITY AS CHRISTIANS WAS TO LOVE AND SERVE OTHERS.
THEN HE SET AN EXAMPLE OF SERVICE BY WASHING THEIR FEET.
ST. JAMES PLANS TO KEEP THIS TRADITION ALIVE BY HAVING THE
PRIEST WASH THE FEET OF SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE CONGREGATION
AFTER THE MAUNDY THURSDAY MASS. THEN ANOTHER DEEPLY
SIGNIFICANT RITUAL WILL TAKE PLACE:

TAPE: CUT THREE -- DOWNING

"THEN WE'LL STRIP THE CHURCH. ST. JAMES IS HIGHLY
DECORATED. AND WHAT WILL HAPPEN IS, THE ALTARS WILL BE
MADE BARE, AND THE TABERNACLE IN WHICH WE NORMALLY KEEP
THE SACRAMENT -- THE CURTAINS WILL BE TAKEN DOWN AND THE
DOOR WILL BE LEFT HANGING OPEN. THE CANDLES WILL BE REMOVED
AND THE BRASS, AND THE STATUES WILL ALL BE VEILED, AND
IT WILL BE A VERY DIFFERENT, DESOLATE PLACE. ON GOOD
FRIDAY, WHEN ONE ENTERS ST. JAMES' CHURCH, ONE KNOWS
SOMETHING TERRIBLE HAS HAPPENED."

VOICE: THE SENSE OF DESOLATION FELT BY THE DEVOUT PARISHIONER AT
ST. JAMES WILL BE REINFORCED BY THE GOOD FRIDAY MASS IN
WHICH THE PRIEST AND CONGREGATION WILL RE-ENACT, IN SOLEMN
SONG, THE TRIAL PERSECUTION, AND CRUCIFIXION OF JESUS
CHRIST. SATURDAY EVENING, AN EASTER VIGIL SERVICE WILL
BE HELD. THEN ON SUNDAY, FATHER DOWNING AND HIS CONGREGATION
HOPE TO EXPERIENCE EVEN GREATER JOY IN CELEBRATING THE
RESURRECTION THAN HAD THEY NOT RECOLLECTED THE TRAGIC EVENTS
THAT PRECEDED IT:

TAPE: CUT FOUR -- DOWNING

"I THINK THAT EXPERIENCING THE JOY OF EASTER IS SHALLOW
FALSE, EVEN, IF ONE HAS NOT EXPERIENCED THE MESSAGE OF
MAUNDY THURSDAY AND BETRAYAL WHEN OUR LORD WAS TAKEN
AWAY BY THE SOLDIERS OF THE SANHEDRIN AND TAKEN TO PILATE
AND SCOURGED, AND THEN EXPERIENCING HIS DEATH ON THE CROSS
AND HIS OFFERING OF HIMSELF ON GOOD FRIDAY, AND THE

TAPE: INCREDIBLE DESOLATION OF THE HOPE OF THE WORLD DESTROYED,
(CONT)AND THEN, HAVING BEEN THROUGH THOSE TWO EXPERIENCES,
EXPERIENCING THE RESURRECTION, AND KNOWING THAT GOD
COULD NOT BE OVERCOME BY MAN OR SIN OR THE POWER OF
EVIL; THAT GOD WILL TRIUMPH. AND THAT IS WHERE OUR JOY
COMES FROM IN THE EASTER SERVICES -- EASTER EVE AND
EASTER DAY."

VOICE: ST. JAMES' CHURCH IS NOT ALONE, OF COURSE, IN PLANNING
AN ELABORATE CELEBRATION OF EASTER. CHURCHES ALL OVER
THE UNITED STATES WILL BE HOLDING SUNRISE SERVICES,
SINGING AND PLAYING SPECIAL MUSIC, AND RE-ENACTING CHRIST'S
PASSION IN MANY DIFFERENT WAYS. THEY WILL BE JOINING
CHRISTIANS ALL OVER THE WORLD IN CELEBRATING THE
RESSURECTION WHICH IS THE VERY FOUNDATION OF THE CHRISTIAN
FAITH.

TAPE: CUT FIVE -- GREGORIAN CHANT -- "ITE, MISSA EST" -- IN FULL
AND PLAY TO END

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